

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/629,962  
Amendment dated July 6, 2004  
Reply to Office Action dated April 6, 2004

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, from lines 13-21, with the following amended paragraph:

Preferably, the sodium zirconium carbonate of the present invention further achieves one or more of the following properties or characteristics:

- a phosphate adsorption having a minimum capacity of from about 30 to about 35 mg  $\text{PO}_4\text{P/gm SZC}$ ;
- a minimum  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  content of from about 2 to about 4 mEq  $\text{HCO}_3^-/\text{gm SZC}$  SZC;
- a maximum leachable  $\text{Na}^+$  content of from about 1.5 to about 2.0 mEq  $\text{Na}^+/\text{gm SZC}$  SZC;
- and/or a pH range of the titrated sodium zirconium carbonate of from about 6 to about 7.